



## Native Hawaiian Culture Working Group

### *Work Plan*

#### **Issue:** Native Hawaiian Culture

#### **Description:**

In order to effectively manage the biological resources which are an integral component of the ecosystems in Hawai'i, it is important to include the cultural perspectives which are unique to these islands. Native Hawaiian culture encompasses strong underlying values which are deeply rooted in the natural environment, and these values foster a cohesive relationship with the land and sea. Coastal access was an essential component of the traditional living system, and although communities still utilize cultural practices and exercise their gathering rights, contemporary coastal access now also accommodates commercial fisheries as well as recreational activities and fisheries. Within this diverse range of activity in the marine environment, "indigenous/cultural gathering rights" should be examined as a unique classification of coastal access. The integration of traditional practices and principles into the management plan would (1) support responsible and sustainable use of marine resources and (2) enhance the ability of Native Hawaiian communities to sustain their future cultural and economic well-being. Ultimately, broadening the involvement of Native Hawaiians in the development of the management plan will foster more effective participation in future decisions.

#### **Method of Communication within the Working Group:**

Meetings will be conducted primarily through conference calls. The working group may have the opportunity to provide travel monies for members to conduct meetings *he alo a he alo* (face to face). The working group will also maintain communication via email, and will utilize shared document technology as necessary. Meeting agendas will be posted to the sanctuary working group website prior to meetings, and meeting notes will be posted in a timely manner.